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JUSTICE ET SYSTÈME PÉNAL DE LA RUSSIE RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE DE L'ORIGINE AU DÉBUT DE 1920. By L. GALIN. Preface by E. LEDERER, professeur à l'Université de Heidelberg, and A. LIEPMANN, professeur à Hamburg. Paris: ROUSSEAU & Co. 1920. pp. ix, 120.

This is a rather incoherent collection of facts and impressions bearing on the judicature and the administration of law in Soviet Russia. The two forewords by Lederer and Liepmann are in complete contradiction to one another: Lederer sees in the judicial arrangements described the proof that

"proletarian dictatorship has ceased to be synonymous with anarchy and has assumed a constitutional aspect."

Liepmann, on the other hand, comes to the following appreciation:

"We receive the impression of a caricature of justice and of tribunals. . . . It is the sincere and brutal outcome of class struggle, devoid of all guarantees of independence for the judges or of the realization of justice. No one could imagine a more scathing satire on the destruction of constitutional ideals."

The author is a lawyer who has lived and practised for a couple of years under the Bolshevik rule. Many of his observations are interesting and characteristic, as for instance the story of two members of an audience listening to the arguments in a trial who find themselves suddenly dragged into the dock and sentenced to imprisonment in lieu of the accused party, their names being ascertained after their fate had been decided (p. 23). The account of the three main systems of judicature struggling for precedence in Soviet Russia—the popular courts, the revolutionary tribunals and the Extraordinary Commission—is instructive and in the main accurate. But the author is neither a historian nor a scientific jurist, and his excursions in the fields of legal history and jurisprudence are confused and misleading. The talk about the absence of juridical ideas in Russian society would fit better the declamations of a reckless journalist than an essay on institutional development. I wonder what the late Djanskieff would have said of the contemptuous treatment of the reformers of the 'sixties.

The worst blemish of the little book is the absurd negligence of the translation. At the very start (p. 14), for instance, the reader is met by sentences like the following: "*faire parler les choses par elles-mêmes, sans les mettre en évidence par des éclaircissements subjectifs et impartiaux, et les falsifier.*" On every page almost, one stumbles over nonsense of this kind.¹ It is a pity, because the pamphlet might be read with some profit.

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PRICES AND PRICE CONTROL IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES DURING THE WORLD WAR. By SIMON LITMAN. New York: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS. 1920. pp. ix, 331.

Professor Litman's volume is one of a series of "Preliminary Economic Studies of the War" prepared under the direction of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and edited by Professor David Kinley. As regards Great Britain the emphasis is placed upon that Government's control of food and fuel, together with historical examples of price control, and brief accounts of the war-time industrial unrest and the causes of the rise in prices. As regards the United States, however, and it is with respect to that half of the book that the remainder

¹ Cf. p. 28, *les autorités des Soviets*; p. 62, *se montrèrent inférieurs*; p. 63, *mesures impardonnables*; p. 92, *délits de fortune*, etc.